



West Coast District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini

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28 August 2018

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RE Official information request WCDHB 9186

We refer to your email dated 23 June 2018 and received on 13 August 2018 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from West Coast DHB regarding Non-resident births in hospitals run by our District Health Board. Specifically:

- 1. How many non-resident women gave birth in hospitals run by the DHB in the past five years? Please break down numbers by year and hospital.**

Table one: Non-resident women who gave birth in hospitals run by West Coast DHB

Financial Year	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Grey Base Hospital	4	11	3	3	8

- 2. Were any non-residents billed by the DHB for the births? If so how many?**

West Coast DHB did not bill any of the above non-resident women as they were eligible for publicly funded maternity care either by their own visa status or through their partner's eligibility.

- 3. Of those who were billed, how many paid the bill and what was the total each year?**

Not applicable as West Coast DHB did not bill any in the last five financial years.

- 4. What was the cost of the most inexpensive and expensive non-resident births for the DHB in the past five years, and were those bills paid?**

Not applicable as West Coast DHB did not bill any in the last five financial years.

- 5. Did the DHB sue any of the non-residents for non-payment? If so what was the total sued for each year? Were any cases won and the money paid back?**

Not applicable as West Coast DHB did not bill any in the last five financial years.

- 6. What was the legal cost to the DHB of pursuing those birth costs?**

There was no legal cost for West Coast DHB as there was no billing in the last five financial years.

7. Has the DHB experienced “birth tourists” as other countries do, whereby non-residents give birth in a NZ hospital in an effort to claim residency/citizenship? (Please elaborate)

No, West Coast DHB has a process of checking the eligibility status of non resident against Immigration New Zealand records. Partner’s details are also checked with Immigration if the woman is not eligible.

8. Has the DHB ever turned away any expectant mothers because they were non-residents?

The West Coast DHB has not turned away any expectant mothers because they were non-residents.

9. Have any non-residents used fake passports or identification to achieve a free birth?

As above in our response to question 7, West Coast DHB has a process of checking the non resident eligibility status with Immigration NZ. If the woman is not eligible then partner’s details are also checked.

10. Does the DHB run any fraud-type campaigns/hotlines to try and stamp out non-residency birth non-payments/frauds?

No, The West Coast does not run any fraud-type campaigns/hotlines of the nature requested.

I trust that this satisfies your interest in this matter.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the West Coast DHB website ten working days after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely



Carolyn Gullery
Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support